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## **City of Farmington Hills Launches Community and Business Surveys on Food Waste and Composting through July 25**

*In collaboration with the non-profit Make Food Not Waste, new surveys will gather input on food waste from community members and businesses to gauge interest in food composting*

**FARMINGTON HILLS, Mich. (July 8, 2025)** – The City of Farmington Hills is collaborating with [Make Food Not Waste](#), a Detroit-based nonprofit that works to help Michiganders waste less food, to create a blueprint for reducing food waste in Farmington Hills. Today the City and Make Food Not Waste are launching two surveys to collect feedback from [community members](#) and [local businesses](#) to better understand the level of awareness and knowledge about the issue of food waste, learn more about how residents and businesses currently handle food waste, and explore community interest in a future composting program. **Both surveys are open through Friday, July 25.**

All Farmington Hills community members are encouraged to complete the [resident-focused survey](#). Food and beverage businesses are encouraged to participate in the [business-focused survey](#). Responses will help support the City as it works to shape the next steps in its blueprint to zero food waste.

“Food waste has significant environmental and economic impacts, which is why this project is an exciting next step in the City’s sustainability journey,” said Jacob Rushlow, director of the City of Farmington Hills Public Services Department, which oversees collection of trash, recycling and yard waste in the City. “Reducing food waste is one thing we can do as a community to lower our greenhouse gas emissions and protect the environment for future generations in Farmington Hills.”

Food waste is any food that is grown and produced for humans but is not eaten, including uneaten leftovers, spoiled food, or food scraps, such as peels and rinds, that are inedible. According to the national data nonprofit [ReFED](#), Michigan wastes more than 2 billion pounds of food each year, significantly contributing to greenhouse gas emissions. Households are the largest food waste generators and spend an average of \$759 per person each year on food that they buy, but don’t eat.

Considering these statistics, reducing food waste has been identified as a solution to slow climate change. The State of Michigan has a goal to cut food waste in half by 2030, as part of the [MI Healthy Climate Plan](#). The City of Farmington Hills also has a goal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 20% by 2050.

Because southeast Michigan is the most populated region in the state, a majority of the state’s food waste is created in this area. Farmington Hills is among several cities in the region, including Southfield, Livonia and Dearborn, that are working with Make Food Not

Waste to create a plan to eliminate food waste from landfills. The 15 largest cities in southeast Michigan generate 750 million pounds of food waste each year. Keeping all of the food waste in those communities out of landfills would reduce the state's food waste by 38%.

The next step in this process is collecting feedback through the [community survey](#) and [business survey](#), which are available through July 25. For more information, visit [www.fhgov.com](http://www.fhgov.com) or call the Department of Public Services at 248-871-2530 and follow the City of Farmington Hills on social media.

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#### **About the City of Farmington Hills**

The City of Farmington Hills is a place where everyone is welcome. Founded in 1973, it is one of the largest and most diverse communities in Oakland County. Farmington Hills is home to more than 83,000 residents who speak more than 60 languages, and more than 75 Fortune 500 businesses, including multinational corporations like Nissan and Bosch. The City is known for its extensive amenities, including over 600 acres of parks, 90 athletic fields, six miles of hiking and walking trails, the Farmington Hills Golf Club, and an Ice Arena. Farmington Hills is also home to The Hawk, an award-winning, 245,000-square-foot recreation and arts venue, which includes The Hawk Theatre and The Hawk Makerspace. For more information, visit [www.fhgov.com](http://www.fhgov.com).

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***Note for reporters:*** Although the Cities of Farmington Hills and Farmington share similar names and are both communities in Oakland County, they are two distinct and separate cities. Farmington Hills is the larger of the two, both in population and size. Farmington is a historic city with its own unique governance and community. Please be sure to differentiate between the two cities in your reporting to avoid confusion.